

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:)	
)	Chapter 11
FRANCHISE GROUP, INC., <i>et al.</i> , ¹)	Case No. 24-12480 (LSS)
)	
Debtors.)	(Jointly Administered)
)	Re: Docket No. 1053

**ORDER AUTHORIZING
THE RETENTION AND EMPLOYMENT OF
KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP AND KIRKLAND & ELLIS
INTERNATIONAL LLP AS ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEBTORS
AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION EFFECTIVE AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 2025**

Upon the application (the “Application”)² of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “Debtors”) for the entry of an order (the “Order”) authorizing the Debtors to retain and employ Kirkland & Ellis LLP and Kirkland & Ellis International LLP (collectively, “Kirkland”) as their attorneys effective as of the February 14, 2025, pursuant to

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of their U.S. federal tax identification numbers, to the extent applicable, are Franchise Group, Inc. (1876), Freedom VCM Holdings, LLC (1225), Freedom VCM Interco Holdings, Inc. (2436), Freedom Receivables II, LLC (4066), Freedom VCM Receivables, Inc. (0028), Freedom VCM Interco, Inc. (3661), Freedom VCM, Inc. (3091), Franchise Group New Holdco, LLC (0444), American Freight FFO, LLC (5743), Franchise Group Acquisition TM, LLC (3068), Franchise Group Intermediate Holdco, LLC (1587), Franchise Group Intermediate L, LLC (9486), Franchise Group Newco Intermediate AF, LLC (8288), American Freight Group, LLC (2066), American Freight Holdings, LLC (8271), American Freight, LLC (5940), American Freight Management Company, LLC (1215), Franchise Group Intermediate S, LLC (5408), Franchise Group Newco S, LLC (1814), American Freight Franchising, LLC (1353), Home & Appliance Outlet, LLC (n/a), American Freight Outlet Stores, LLC (9573), American Freight Franchisor, LLC (2123), Franchise Group Intermediate B, LLC (7836), Buddy’s Newco, LLC (5404), Buddy’s Franchising and Licensing LLC (9968), Franchise Group Intermediate V, LLC (5958), Franchise Group Newco V, LLC (9746), Franchise Group Intermediate BHF, LLC (8260), Franchise Group Newco BHF, LLC (4123), Valor Acquisition, LLC (3490), Vitamin Shoppe Industries LLC (3785), Vitamin Shoppe Global, LLC (1168), Vitamin Shoppe Mariner, LLC (6298), Vitamin Shoppe Procurement Services, LLC (8021), Vitamin Shoppe Franchising, LLC (8271), Vitamin Shoppe Florida, LLC (6590), Betancourt Sports Nutrition, LLC (0470), Franchise Group Intermediate PSP, LLC (5965), Franchise Group Newco PSP, LLC (2323), PSP Midco, LLC (6507), Pet Supplies “Plus”, LLC (5852), PSP Group, LLC (5944), PSP Service Newco, LLC (6414), WNW Franchising, LLC (9398), WNW Stores, LLC (n/a), PSP Stores, LLC (9049), PSP Franchising, LLC (4978), PSP Subco, LLC (6489), PSP Distribution, LLC (5242), Franchise Group Intermediate SL, LLC (2695), Franchise Group Newco SL, LLC (7697), and Educate, Inc. (5722). The Debtors’ headquarters is located at 2371 Liberty Way, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456.

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Application.

sections 327(a) and 330 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”), rules 2014(a) and 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), and rules 2014-1 and 2016-1 of the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the District of Delaware (the “Local Rules”); and the Court having reviewed the Application, the Declaration of Joshua A. Sussberg, the president of Joshua A. Sussberg, P.C., a partner of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, and a partner of Kirkland & Ellis International LLP (the “Sussberg Declaration”), and the declaration of David Orlofsky, the Chief Restructuring Officer of the Debtors (the “Orlofsky Declaration”); and the Court having found that the Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334; and the Court having found that the Application is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2); and the Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Application in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and the Court having found based on the representations made in the Application and in the Sussberg Declaration that (a) Kirkland does not hold or represent an interest adverse to the Debtors’ estates; and (b) Kirkland is a “disinterested person” as defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code and as required by section 327(a) of the Bankruptcy Code; and the Court having found that the relief requested in the Application is in the best interests of the Debtors’ estates; and the Court having found that the Debtors provided adequate and appropriate notice of the Application under the circumstances and that no other or further notice is required; and the Court having reviewed the Application and having heard statements in support of the Application at a hearing held before the Court (the “Hearing”); and the Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Application and at the Hearing establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and any objections to the relief requested herein having been withdrawn or overruled on the merits; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Application is granted to the extent set forth herein.
2. The Debtors are authorized to retain and employ Kirkland as their attorneys effective as of February 14, 2025 in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Application and in the Engagement Letter attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

3. Kirkland is authorized to provide the Debtors with the professional services as described in the Application and the Engagement Letter. Specifically, but without limitation, Kirkland will render the following legal services:

- a. advising the Debtors with respect to their powers and duties as debtors in possession in the continued management and operation of their businesses and properties;
- b. advising and consulting on their conduct during these chapter 11 cases, including all of the legal and administrative requirements of operating in chapter 11;
- c. attending meetings and negotiating with representatives of creditors and other parties in interest;
- d. taking all necessary actions to protect and preserve the Debtors' estates, including prosecuting actions on the Debtors' behalf, defending any action commenced against the Debtors, and representing the Debtors in negotiations concerning litigation in which the Debtors are involved, including objections to claims filed against the Debtors' estates;
- e. preparing pleadings in connection with these chapter 11 cases, including motions, applications, answers, orders, reports, and papers necessary or otherwise beneficial to the administration of the Debtors' estates;
- f. advising the Debtors in connection with any potential sale of assets;
- g. appearing before the Court and any appellate courts to represent the interests of the Debtors' estates;
- h. advising the Debtors regarding tax matters;
- i. taking any necessary action on behalf of the Debtors to negotiate, prepare, and obtain approval of a disclosure statement and confirmation of a chapter 11 plan and all documents related thereto; and
- j. performing all other necessary legal services for the Debtors in connection with the prosecution of these chapter 11 cases, including: (i) advising the

Debtors on matters related to postpetition financing and the continued use of cash collateral; (ii) analyzing the Debtors' leases and contracts and the assumption and assignment or rejection thereof; (iii) analyzing the validity of liens against the Debtors' assets; and (iv) advising the Debtors on corporate and litigation matters.

4. Kirkland shall apply for compensation for professional services rendered and reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with the Debtors' chapter 11 cases in compliance with sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code and applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Rules, Local Rules, and any other applicable procedures and orders of the Court. Kirkland also intends to make a reasonable effort to comply with the U.S. Trustee's requests for information and additional disclosures as set forth in the *Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed under 11 U.S.C. § 330 by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases Effective as of November 1, 2013*, both in connection with the Application and the interim and final fee applications to be filed by Kirkland in these chapter 11 cases.

5. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Application, the Engagement Letter, or the Declarations attached to the Application, the reimbursement provisions allowing the reimbursement of fees and expenses incurred in connection with participating in, preparing for, or responding to any action, claim, suit, or proceeding brought by or against any party that relates to the legal services provided under the Engagement Letter and fees for defending any objection to Kirkland's fee applications under the Bankruptcy Code are not approved pending further order of the Court.

6. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Application, its exhibits, and/or any supporting filings, including the Engagement Letter, the Debtors' rights to object to interim and/or final allowance of Kirkland's fees are fully reserved under the applicable bankruptcy law and the procedures set forth in the *Order (I) Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensation and*

Reimbursement of Expenses for Retained Professionals and (II) Granting Related Relief
[Docket No. 353].

7. Kirkland shall not charge a markup to the Debtors with respect to fees billed by contract attorneys who are hired by Kirkland to provide services to the Debtors and shall ensure that any such contract attorneys are subject to conflict checks and disclosures in accordance with the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules.

8. Kirkland shall provide ten-business-days' notice to the Debtors, the U.S. Trustee, and counsel to the Creditors' Committee before any increases in the rates set forth in the Application or the Engagement Letter are implemented and shall file such notice with the Court. The U.S. Trustee retains all rights to object to any rate increase on all grounds, including the reasonableness standard set forth in section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code, and the Court retains the right to review any rate increase pursuant to section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code.

9. The Debtors and Kirkland are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted pursuant to this Order in accordance with the Application.

10. Notice of the Application as provided therein is deemed to be good and sufficient notice of such Application, and the requirements of the Local Rules are satisfied by the contents of the Application.

11. To the extent the Application, the Declarations, or the Engagement Letter is inconsistent with this Order, the terms of this Order shall govern.

12. The terms and conditions of this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

13. The Court retains jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation of this Order.

Dated: April 1st, 2025
Wilmington, Delaware


LAURIE SELBER SILVERSTEIN
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE